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(54) Television special effects generator with progressive scanning.

(57) An enhanced video special effects system architecture is based on deinterlacing (16) incoming fields of interlaced video and processing the deinterlaced video through video special effects operations (18,30), each of which benefits from operating on a progressive scan video signal rather than an interlaced video signal.

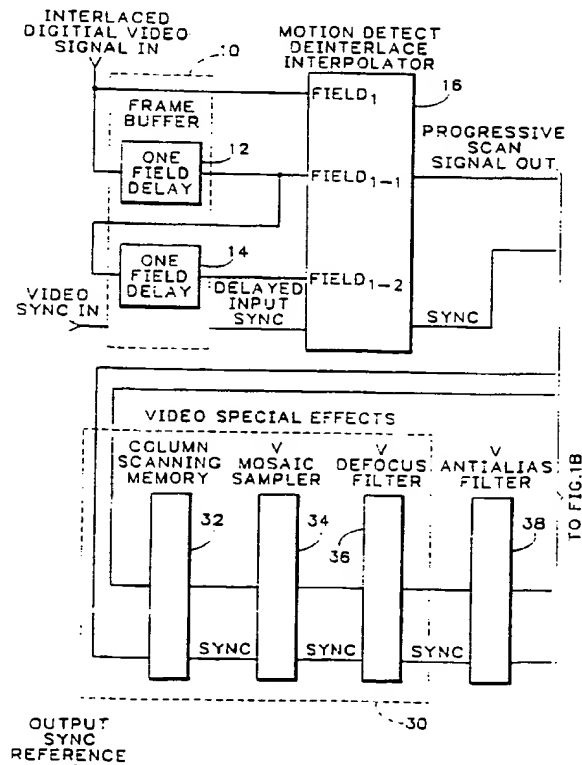
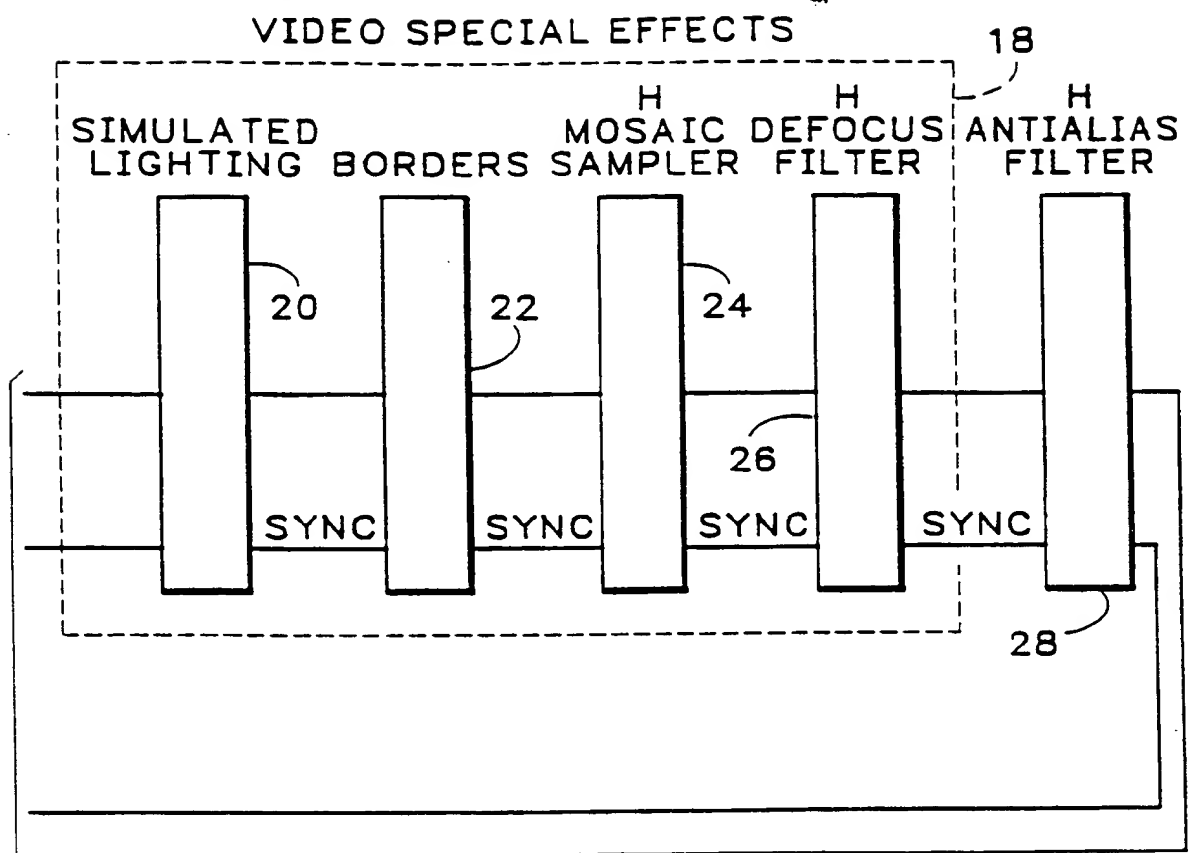


FIG. 1A



FROM FIG.1A

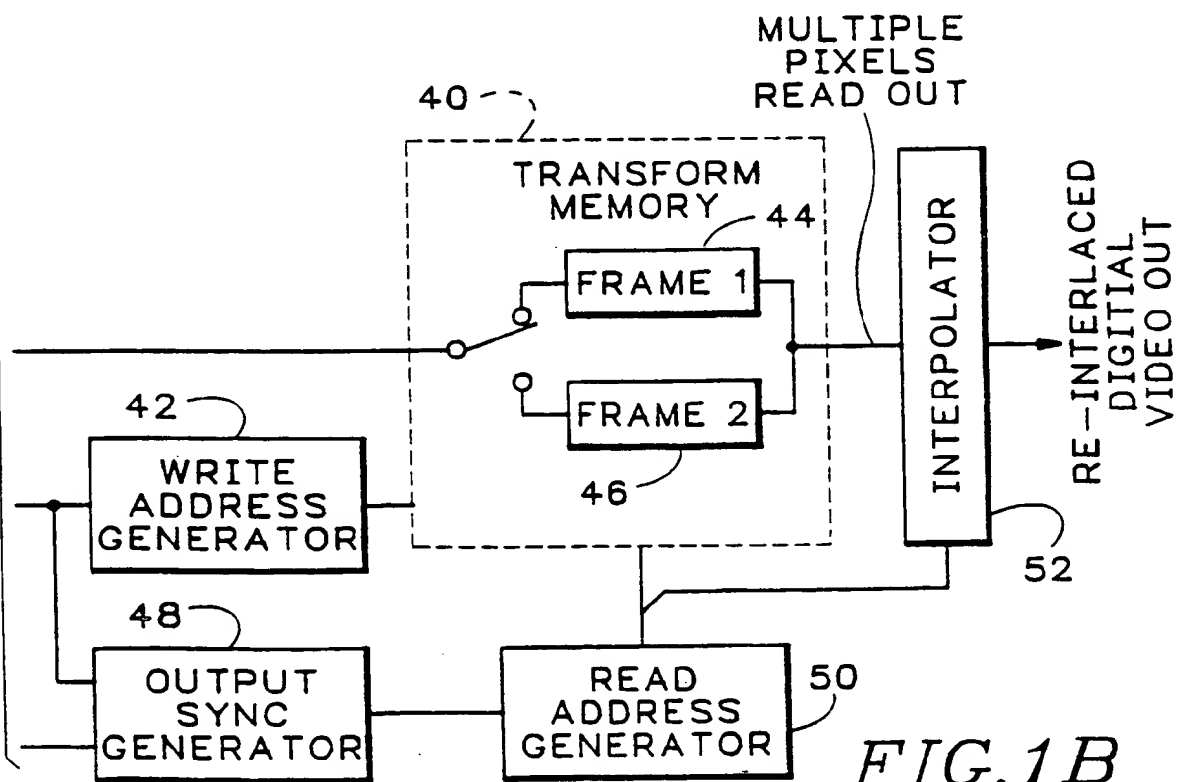


FIG.1B

Background of the Invention

This invention relates to television special effects, and more particularly to an improved architecture for a television special effects generator.

A video image is usually recorded or displayed by sweeping an electron beam horizontally across the face of a camera tube or a picture tube a number of times, from top to bottom, before a vertical retrace is accomplished and the procedure is repeated. The pattern of lines on the face of a camera or picture tube is called a "raster". If the image is created by horizontal lines that are immediately adjacent each other and incrementing downward monotonically, it is known as progressive raster scanning or non-interlaced video.

However, to reduce the bandwidth required for the transmission of the image data while preserving as much resolution as possible, commercial television standards make use of a technique known as "interlace scanning". In this approach, a complete frame of video with full resolution is made of two consecutive fields, each with half as many lines, such that the lines of one field fall between those of the other field. One of these two fields contains, in effect, all of the odd lines of a normal frame of video, while the other contains all of the even lines. The two interlaced fields create an image with an effective sampling rate that is twice that of each field separately, and therefore for a given bandwidth the vertical resolution is doubled relative to each of them separately.

Effective as they are at conserving bandwidth while preserving resolution, interlaced television video signals present a number of problems in modern digital television special effects equipment. A variety of video special effects can cause apparent motion that creates a problem in connection with interlaced video. These include synthetic light reflections, adding borders, defocus effects, key glow generation and mosaic tiling. In each of these operations, apparent motion is introduced into the video image and this apparent motion shows up as undesirable artifacts if the interlaced fields are operated on independently of each other.

Higher quality video special effects systems attempt to use the information from two or more fields to create output images and thus produce images that utilize the full resolution capability of the interlace standard. To avoid distortions produced by motion or apparent motion, these systems adaptively switch between full frame and single field operation, depending on whether motion is detected locally on a pixel by pixel basis.

U. S. Patent 4,472,732 to Bennett et al for a "System for Spatially Transforming Images", hereby incorporated by reference, discloses a video special effects system that includes two deinterlace filters (600 and 902, FIG. 3), only one of which is used in a particular transformation. These filters (described

with reference to FIG. 18 of that patent) include motion detection on a pixel-by-pixel basis that is used to determine the content of an output frame. Motion is detected by comparing a pixel's Y, I and Q values in a most recent field with the values two fields earlier. If these values differ by more than a threshold amount, a motion signal is generated. In the absence of this motion signal, in generating a deinterlaced frame output, the same pixel on the next line will have its value determined by the next most recent field of interlaced video. However, in the presence of this motion signal, the value of the same pixel on the next line is based on the average of the pixels above and below it in the most recent field. Thus, this deinterlace filter produces a progressive scan frame of video in a manner that adaptively filters out field-to-field motion.

In the architecture described in U. S. Patent 4,472,732, the deinterlaced output of the deinterlace filter is filtered and then used immediately in an interpolation process that produces an interlaced output again.

Summary of the Invention

The quick reversion to interlaced video fields taught by U. S. Patent 4,472,732 has the advantage of reducing bandwidth requirements of the video special effects generators that are downstream from the interpolation process. However, by reverting to interlaced fields again so quickly, a major opportunity for an enhanced video special effects system architecture is missed.

According to the present invention, an enhanced video special effects system architecture is based on deinterlacing incoming fields of interlaced video and keeping the video deinterlaced as it is processed with video special effects operations that each benefit from operating on a progressive scan video signal, rather than an interlaced video signal.

The subject matter of the present invention is particularly pointed out and distinctly claimed in the concluding portion of this specification. However, both the organization and method of operation, together with further advantages and objects thereof, may best be understood by reference to the following detailed description and accompanying drawing.

Brief Description of the Drawing

The FIGURE is a block diagram of the progressive scanning section of a video special effects system according to the present invention.

Detailed Description

Referring now to the FIGURE, an interlaced digital video signal input is applied to a frame buffer 10 containing two one-field delay elements 12 and 14.

The frame buffer 10 presents three frames of video to the motion detect deinterlace interpolator 16, field_{last}, field_{last-1} and field_{last-2}.

The motion detecting deinterlace interpolator 16 suitably operates as described in U. S. Patent 4,472,732 to Bennett et al, previously incorporated by reference, to produce a progressive scan video signal output.

The progressive scan video signal is then processed by two blocks of video special effects 18 and 30 and anti-aliasing filtered horizontally 28 and vertically 38. Within the first block of video special effects 18, the progressive scan video is applied first to a simulated lighting generator 20. Simulated lighting generation is known in the art, and a suitable method of performing this function is described in U. S. Patent 4,899,295 to Nonweiler for "Video Signal Processing", hereby incorporated by reference.

The output of the simulated lighting generator 20 is applied to the input of borders generator 22. Borders generation is well known to those of ordinary skill in the video arts and is described in U. S. Patent 4,698,666 to the present inventor for "Video Key Glow and Border Generator", hereby incorporated by reference.

The output of the borders generator 22 is applied to the input of horizontal mosaic sampler 24. Mosaics samplers are known in the art and a representative one is described in U. S. Patent 4,782,398 to the present inventor for "Method and Apparatus for Providing Video Mosaic Effects", hereby incorporated by reference.

The output of the horizontal mosaic sampler 24 is applied to the input of horizontal defocus filter 26. Defocus filtering is well known to those of ordinary skill in the video arts, and merely consists of extreme low pass filtering.

The output of the horizontal defocus filter 26 is applied to the input of horizontal anti-aliasing filter 28. Anti-aliasing filters are known in the art, and a suitable one is described in U. S. Patent 4,703,447 to the present inventor for "Mixer Controlled Variable Passband Finite Response Filter", hereby incorporated by reference. The output of the anti-aliasing filter 28 is then stored in column scanning memory 32.

The column scanning memory 32 re-orientes the pixel transfer sequence from a horizontal scanning order to a vertical scanning order. The "transposing memories" described in U. S. Patent 4,472,732 to Bennett et al, previously incorporated by reference, suitably perform this function.

As it is read out of the column scanning memory 32, the partially processed progressive scan video signal is sequentially applied to a vertical mosaic sampler 34, a vertical defocus filter 36 and a vertical anti-aliasing filter 38.

As this progressive scan video signal stream is processed through the blocks above, the bandwidth

requirements for each of those blocks is doubled. As each of these blocks has been explained by reference to a prior art patent or by being described as "well known to those of ordinary skill in the video art", it should be borne in mind that some adaptation will be required to handle twice as much data. Whether this can most effectively be done by doubling the width of the data path or by using faster parts and doubling the speed of the data path, will depend on price tradeoffs and practical considerations in the local design environment.

The fully processed progressive scan video signal is then put in either a frame 1 memory 44 or a frame 2 memory 46, which together constitute a transform memory 40.

A write address generator 42 receives sync signal inputs and produces the addresses that write the fully processed progressive scan video signals into the transform memory 40. The sync signal inputs to the write address generator 42 have been used and delayed appropriately by each of the blocks 20-38 along the video processing path. Each block receives, uses and appropriately delays these sync signals, so that blocks downstream are unaffected by design changes or operating mode changes in the blocks that are upstream from them.

The output sync generator 48 receives output sync references and the delayed input sync signals accompanying the video. It needs the latter in case the output sync references are not present for some reason and it is necessary to use the delayed input sync signals instead. It is also necessary to measure the relative timing difference between the delayed input video sync signals and the output sync reference. While some time is available to compensate for timing differences, if the measured difference is larger than the maximum time available for this purpose, it is necessary to detect that condition and notify the operator.

The output sync generator 48 supplies the read address generator 50 with output sync signals. The read address generator 50 produces read addresses according to the desired transform function, such as sizing, positioning, rotation, perspective, projection, warping, etc., and supplies the integer part of these pixel addresses to the transform memory 40. The fractional parts of these addresses are supplied to the interpolator 52. The read address generator 50 reads from the opposite frame 1 or 2 memory 44, 46 from the one that is presently being written to by the write address generator 42. The synchronization of the writing and reading of the two frame memories 44 and 46 is maintained by the vertical blanking signal which identifies the end of a field and causes the alternation between reading and writing of the two frames. Interlacing is reintroduced in this reading out process.

Although not shown in the FIGURE, key glow filtering may be accomplished in a separate parallel

channel, as described in U. S. Patent 4,698,666 to the present inventor for "Video Key Glow and Border Generator", previously incorporated by reference.

While a preferred embodiment of the present invention has been shown and described, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that many changes and modifications may be made without departing from the invention in its broader aspects. The claims that follow are therefore intended to cover all such changes and modifications as fall within the true scope of the invention.

mosaic tiling generator (24,34).

6. A method for producing video special effects according to claim 4 further comprising the step of anti-aliasing filtering (28,38).

Claims

1. A video special effects system comprising:
 - a deinterlace filter (16) with motion detection for producing a progressive scan video signal output from an interlaced video input;
 - video special effects generating means (18,30) for operating on the progressive scan video signal to produce a progressive scan video signal with special effects; and
 - means for interlacing (52) the progressive scan video signal with special effects to produce an interlaced video signal with special effects.
2. A video special effects system according to claim 1 wherein the video special effects generating means (18,30) comprises one of the following:
 - simulated lighting generator (20);
 - borders generator (22);
 - defocus effects generator (26,36); and
 - mosaic tiling generator (24,34).
3. A video special effects system according to claim 1 further comprising means for anti-aliasing filtering (28,38).
4. A method for producing video special effects, the method comprising the steps of:
 - deinterlace filtering (16) with motion detection an interlaced video input to produce a progressive scan video signal output;
 - applying a video special effect (18,30) to the progressive scan video signal to produce a progressive scan video signal with special effects; and
 - interlacing (52) the progressive scan video signal with special effects to produce an interlaced video signal with special effects.
5. A method for producing video special effects according to claim 4 wherein the video special effect (18,30) comprises one of the following:
 - simulated lighting generator (20);
 - borders generator (22);
 - defocus effects generator (26,36); and

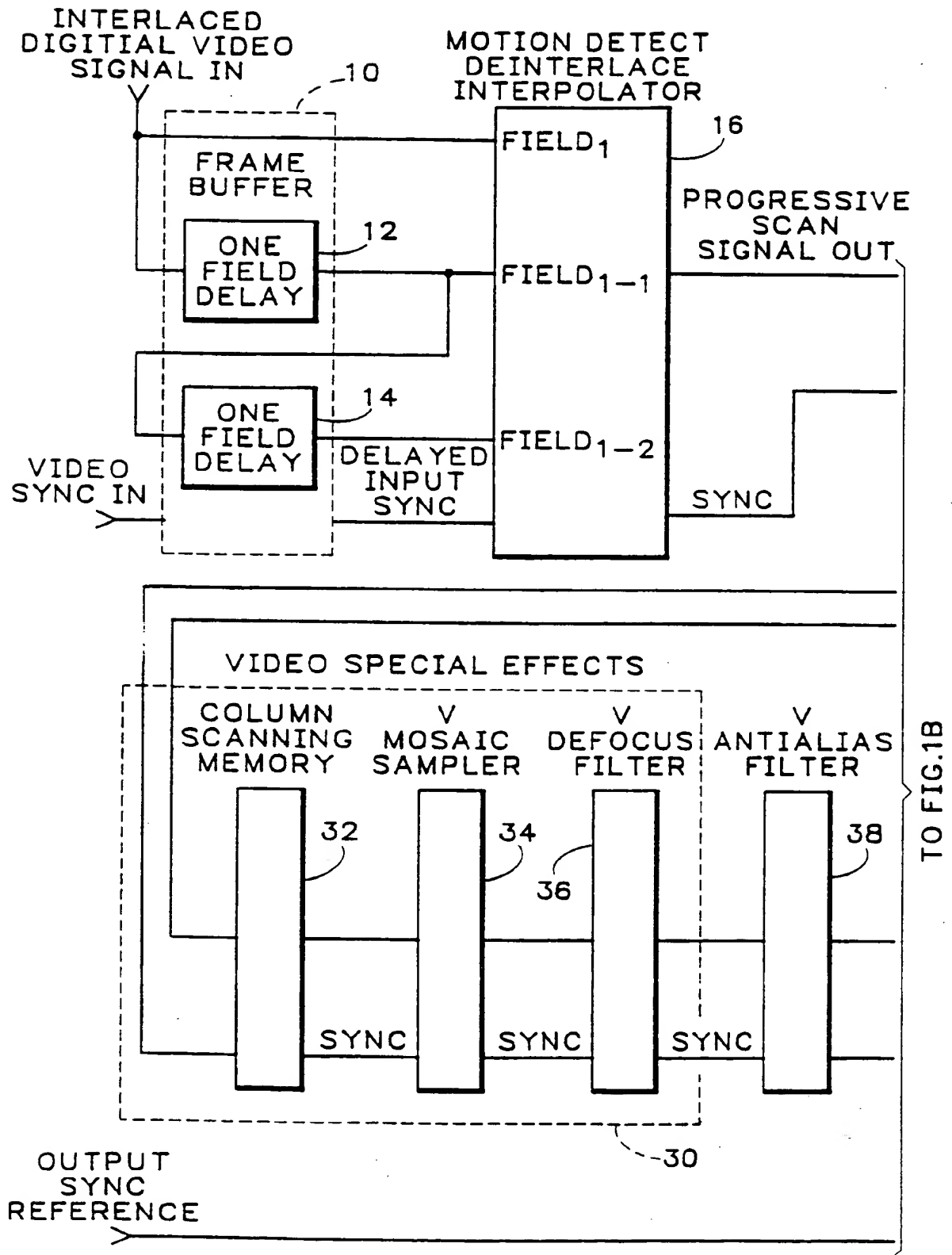
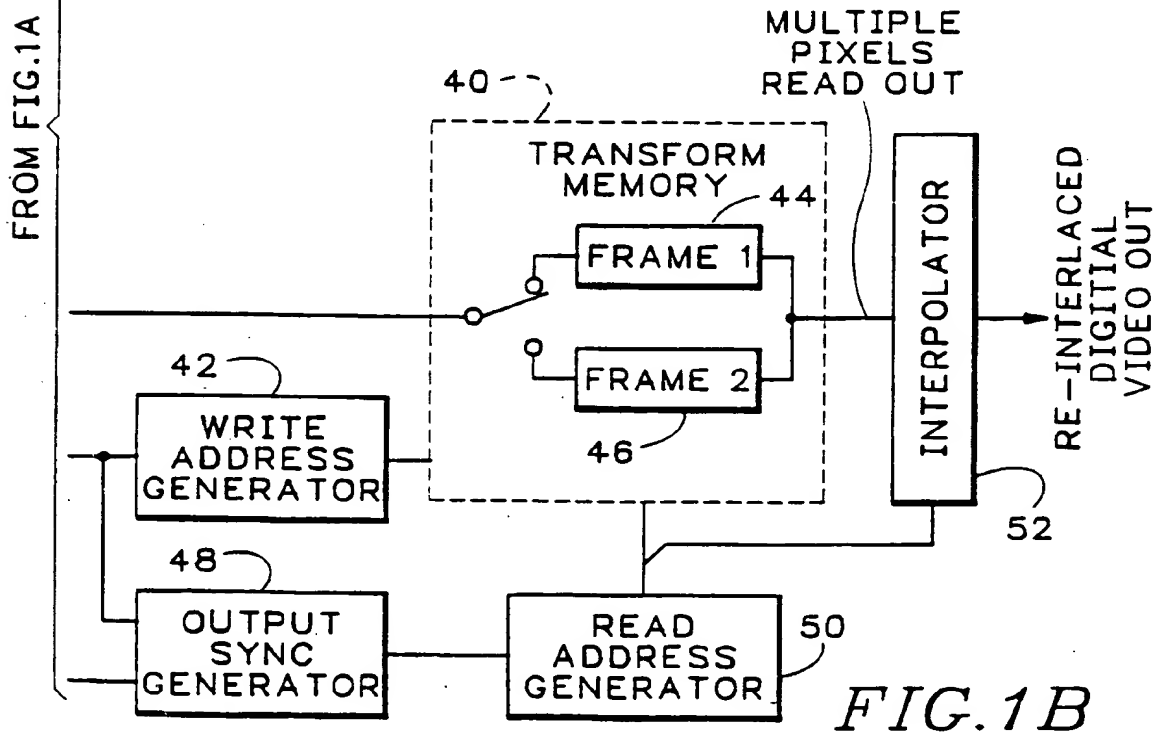
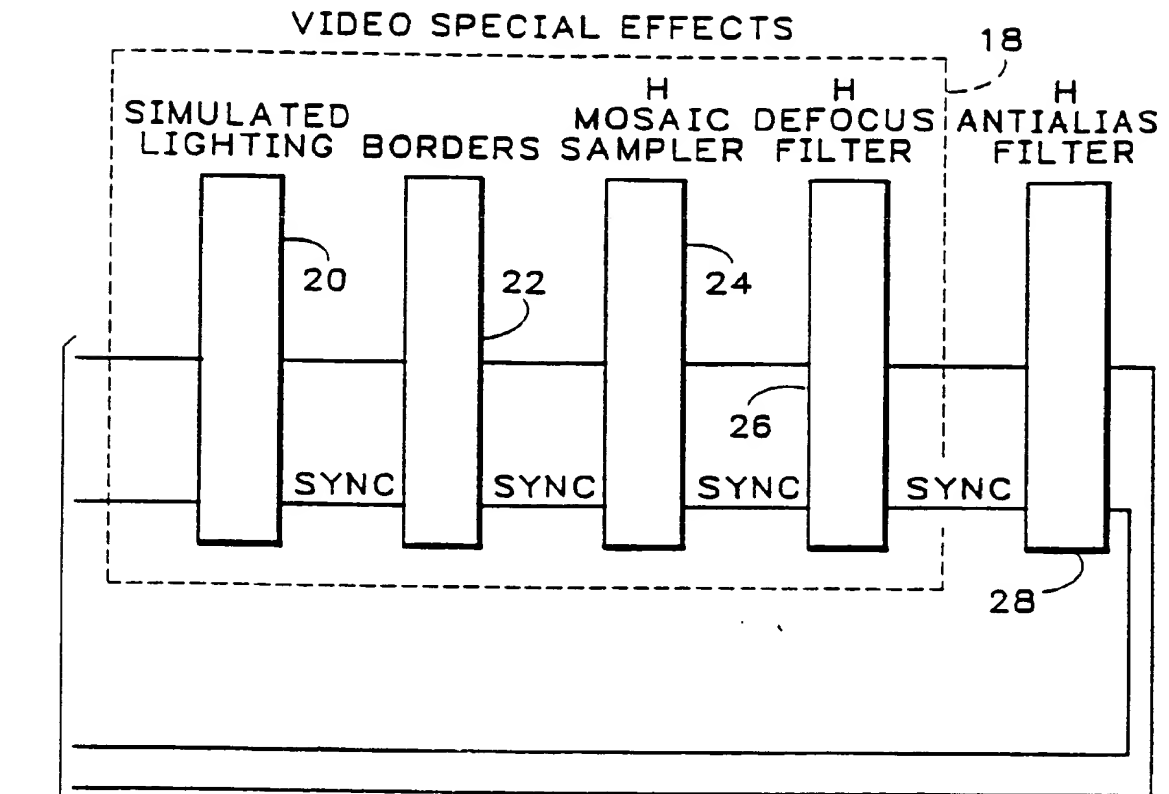


FIG. 1A





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 92300945.0
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
D, A	<u>US - A - 4 472 732</u> (BENNETT) * Fig. 3; column 11, lines 16-28 * -----	1, 4	H 04 N 5/262
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			H 04 N 5/00 H 04 N 9/00
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 23-04-1992	Examiner BENISCHKA
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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